

Appl. No. 10/817,588

Atty Dkt. No. 114216-011

Response to Office Action mailed October 4, 2005

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 6 and 8-9. Claims 6 and 8-9 stand rejected. In this Response, no claims have been amended or cancelled, and claims 10-11 have been added. Thus, claims 6 and 8-11 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Chao (US 2003/0145439 A1). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' invention as claimed in claim 6 calls for "wherein the tip end of the guide bar 23 is located on the side of the tip end of the plug 20 relative to the both ends 31 of the bridge 30." The reference numbers inserted into the claim text are merely for reference purposes to the example of the present invention shown in the drawings and described in the specification and are not intended to limit the claims. Referring to the example of Fig. 3 and the specification at page 7, lines 8-26, the tip end of the guide bar 23 extends from the base 21 beyond the ends 31 of the bridge 30. This structure is claimed in claim 6 as "the tip end of the guide bar is located on the side of the tip end of the plug relative to the both ends of the bridge." In other words, the tip end of the guide bar is located on the same side as the tip end of the plug relative to the ends of the bridge.

Turning to Chao, Fig. 8 shows a fastening piece 22 with the tip end of the guide bar as not extending beyond the ends of the alleged bridge. Rather, the tip end of the guide bar is closer to the base of the fastening piece. The tip end of the guide bar and the tip end of the fastening piece 22 are located on opposite sides relative to the ends of the "bridge." Thus, the Chao tip end of the guide bar is not located on the side of the tip end of the plug relative to the both ends of the bridge as claimed in claim 6.

Furthermore, it would not be obvious to modify Chao to extend the tip end of the guide bar beyond the ends of the "bridge". Chao's "bridge" is bent in a reverse direction back toward

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the tip end of the guide bar such that the tip end of the guide bar cannot extend beyond the ends of the "bridge." Again, the Chao tip end of the guide bar is not located on the side of the tip end of the plug relative to the both ends of the bridge as claimed in claim 6.

Thus, Applicants submit that the rejections should be withdrawn. Furthermore, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons that independent claim 6 is allowable.

New Claims

New dependent claims 10 and 11 have been added which depend from claim 6. Claims 10 and 11 are supported by the application as originally filed and do not include new matter. For example, as to claim 10, Fig. 3 shows the plug 20 of the buckle 1 having the central part 32 of the bridge 30 bent in a direction away from the base 21 of the plug 20 to extend around the tip end of the guide bar 23. As to claim 11, Fig. 3 shows both ends 31 of the bridge 30 being located on the sides of the base end of the plug 20 relative to the pressing part 25.

Applicants submit claims 10 and 11 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

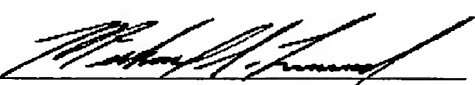
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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